

REMARKS

Claim Objections/Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 18 is objected to and claims 2-5, 18-20, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claims 2, 18, 20, 22, and 23 are now amended as suggested in the Office Action, and claims 18 and 20 are amended to clarify that the ratio being referred to in the claim is volume. It is believed that the objections and the rejections are hereby overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 499004. The rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is now amended to limit heating of the substrate to resistive heating. EP 499004 relates to a process for manufacturing a fiber-reinforced ceramic material by filling a fibrous substrate with SiN deposited from the gas phase (Abstract). In the specific embodiment described in the application, the substrate is heated by an infrared heater (pg. 4, lines 35-36), and there is no mention of using resistive heating. As the EP 499004 application does not disclose such a heating method, applicants submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by the reference. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome.

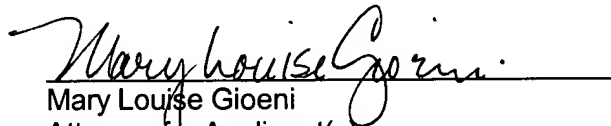
Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over EP 499004, in view of Arenz et al., (U.S. Patent No. 4,863,798). The rejection is traversed.

Claims 6 and 14-20 depend from amended claim 1, and, therefore, also contain the "resistive heating" limitation of that claim. Arenz relates to a process for depositing a thin layer of a pyrolyzed material on a porous substrate (Abstract). The only heating means specifically

mentioned in the patent is a 'furnace of conventional design' (col. 3, lines 54-55), and, other than such references to a furnace, there is no discussion of means for heating the substrate to a temperature at which pyrolysis can occur. As there is no suggestion in either EP 499004 or in Arenz to *resistively* heat a deposition substrate, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is not obvious over the combination of the two. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary Louise Gioeni
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 41,779

Dated: July 9, 2003

HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI, P.C.

5 Columbia Circle

Albany, New York 12203

Telephone: (518) 452-5600

Facsimile: (518) 452-5579